

Judith Taylor teaches mathematics at Inez Elementary School in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in my district. Recently, she received the National Science Foundation 1998 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The award honors 208 teachers from around the country whose work makes them role models for other educators to emulate.

Ms. Taylor's unique philosophy and creative approach to teaching math has touched the lives of many students and impressed the judges of the contest. She believes most students' fears about math manifest themselves early because students are uncomfortable with common teaching methods. Rather than forcing her students to memorize rules, Taylor teaches them to look for patterns in mathematics.

I am certain most adults can remember a teacher from their school days who was a positive influence not only in their school work, but also in their lives. I thank her for being a positive influence to the students in the first district.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we recognize and thank Judith Taylor for her hard work and dedication in teaching mathematics.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, in the evening of Thursday, July 29, 1999, and the morning of Friday, July 30, 1999, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber and therefore missed rollcall vote No. 355 (Motion to Instruct Conferees on S. 900), rollcall vote No. 354 (Motion to instruct Conferees on H.R. 1501), rollcall vote No. 353 (the Pitts amendment to H.R. 2606), rollcall vote No. 352 (the Moakley amendment to H.R. 2606) and rollcall vote No. 351 (the Campbell amendment to H.R. 2606).

I want the RECORD to show that if I had been able to be present in this chamber when these votes were cast, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 355, rollcall vote 354, and rollcall vote 352. I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 353 and rollcall vote 351.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY PAYMENT PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Construction Contractors Payment Protection Act of 1999, H.R. 1219. This legislation has been carefully crafted to balance the rights and interests of the parties on projects covered by the Miller Act. The Miller Act requires a performance bond to protect the government for completion of the project and payment bonds to protect certain persons providing labor and materials since these persons are not afforded the protection of mechanics liens on federal projects. Legis-

lation previously proposed did not adequately balance these considerations. I am pleased that twenty-three construction industry groups including the Associated General Contractors of America, the Surety Association of America, American Insurance Association and National Association of Surety Bond Producers were able to agree upon provisions enhancing the current Miller Act.

Bonding is a very important benchmark in the construction industry. This bill preserves that benchmark. Bond capacity represents a company's financial and capacity to complete a project. Bonded contractors expose their companies to rigorous financial and operational evaluation and their officers often pledge corporate and personal financial assets as collateral to the bond.

The Miller Act was designed to protect subcontractors and the government to ensure the timely completion of a construction project. Government contractors have proven to be very reliable. Hundreds of thousands of contracts are entered into annually. The government purchases billions of dollars of construction services.

I commend the gentleman from Virginia, Representative DAVIS and the gentlelady from New York, Representative MALONEY, and the Chairman of the subcommittee, Representative HORN for their extraordinary efforts to reach a consensus agreement by so many in the construction industry.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE WITH REGARD TO SHUTTLE MISSION STS-93, COMMANDED BY COLONEL EILEEN COLLINS, FIRST FEMALE SPACE SHUTTLE COMMANDER

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 2, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous accomplishments of Air Force Colonel Eileen Marie Collins as the first female space shuttle commander. Col. Collins represents the best in America's space program and I congratulate her and the crew for the successful deployment of the Chandra X-Ray Observatory during the STS-93 Mission aboard the Shuttle *Columbia*. With three missions under her belt, Col. Collins has certainly become one of our most experienced astronauts.

I look forward to seeing the results of the time and resources invested in making the Chandra X-Ray Observatory a reality. The telescope will give scientists an important tool to study phenomena like exploding stars, quasars and black holes.

Chandra and other major projects like Hubble and Landsat are the results of a team effort of NASA scientists, engineers, contractors, educational institutions and the highly trained astronauts who place these satellites and observatories into orbit. While we commend the efforts of this mission and NASA's many previous accomplishments, I am deeply concerned by the \$1 billion cut in NASA's overall budget of \$13.6 billion and the impact this will have on future programs like Hubble's successor, the Next Generation Space Telescope.

Goddard Space Flight Center is one of NASA's premier research and program management facilities and the facility that will be most impacted by the cuts. The \$1 billion dollar cut would adversely impact NASA's Space and Earth Science Programs based at Goddard. These are serious cuts and I am deeply concerned with the impact this will have on the almost 12,000 employees that work either directly as employees or indirectly as contractors.

So as we recognize the success of STS-93 and Col. Collins' tremendous achievement, let us also keep in mind that future programs like Discovery and the Next Generation Space Telescope—programs that will utilize the shuttle program—face an uncertain and unnecessary fate, as a result of these cuts.

JAMAICA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 4, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable island nation which will be celebrating its 37th year of Independence on Friday, August 6, 1999. This is the island nation of Jamaica. But although independent Jamaica will be celebrating its 37th birthday this Friday, the nation of Jamaica is much older than its 37 years. In fact, this nation was born in 1655, 344 years ago, when the former African slaves established free Maroon settlements after the Spanish colonial power had departed the island. It came to adolescence on August 1, 1834, when slavery was abolished throughout the British Empire. Independence is the culmination of a long period of gestation, growth, and maturity in the life of this nation.

Jamaica has bequeathed a glorious legacy of resistance to human oppression. The Maroon rebellion, led by its freedom fighters, inflicted heavy losses on the British and forced them to recognize the autonomy of the Maroon communities. Among its pantheon of freedom fighters are Cudjoe, Nanny, Johnny, and Accompong.

Jamaica provided leadership during the labor disturbances of 1938, when harsh social conditions forced the working class to take serious industrial action. Among the leaders of the labor revolt were Allen George Coombs, the old Garveyite warrior St. William Grant, and the incomparable William Alexander Bustamante.

Jamaican contribution has not been confined to the island of Jamaica. Jamaicans have contributed to the struggle for human rights in the U.S.A. Among the outstanding Jamaicans who have contributed to our history are John Brown Russwurm, the author of the first black newspaper, *Freedom's Journal*, Robert Brown Elliot, who served in this Congress from the great State of South Carolina, during the Reconstruction period, Claude McKay, one of the outstanding authors during the Harlem Renaissance, and Marcus Mosiah Garvey, the prophet of Pan African nationalism.

Jamaica has produced more musical genres than any country in the world, except the U.S. Its traditional African rhythms as reflected in